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LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LUXEMBOURG TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 7 August 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on sending observers to monitor the elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of
Luxembourg to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 7 August 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on sending observers to monitor the elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

With reference to the terms of its demarche in Belgrade on 16 July and its declaration of 31 July 1997, the EU fully endorses the declaration by the President-in-Office of the OSCE, published in Copenhagen on 5 August 1997, on sending observers to the elections in the FRY.

The EU calls on the FRY authorities to accept the offer of bona fide monitoring of the legislative and presidential elections in the FRY by the OSCE. It points out that the OSCE and the ODIHR are the right bodies to monitor elections, including elections held in the FRY. Furthermore, its is for the ODIHR to decide freely on the composition of its teams of observers.

The EU rejects the selective approach of the FRY authorities. It calls on them to invite the OSCE in, without any conditions as to what it may or may not do.

The EU stresses the need for monitoring of the electoral process on the basis of internationally recognized standards, taking in the entire process, including freedom of expression and information, and for equal access for all parties to the media, in particular in the run-up to the elections. In this context, the EU reaffirms the need for full and swift implementation of the recommendations contained in the Gonzalez report.

The EU urges the FRY to take advantage of the OSCE's offer of assistance to ensure that the poll is fair.

By guaranteeing free and democratic elections, the FRY will show its determination to make a clear commitment to the path of democracy and the rule of law, thus contributing to its full integration into the international community.